

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A directed web browsing system comprising:
a customizable director, the customizable director
operable to provide web browsing capabilities and
5 comprising:

a border portion having a forward element, a
play element and a back element;

a display portion operable to display a first
web page, the first web page having a link, the link
10 having an associated second web page; and

an exclusive set of first web pages associated with
the customizable director and wherein a user associated
with the customizable director is required to retrieve at
least one of the first web pages prior to retrieving a
15 second web page distinct from the first web pages; and

a cycle time associated with at least one of the
first web pages.

2. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the
customizable browser further comprises a timer module
operable to determine the expiration of the cycle time
associated with the first web pages and generated an
20 indication that the cycle time has expired.

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5 3. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the customizable browser further comprises a unique identifier and wherein the first web pages have an associated uniform resource locator.

10 4. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the border portion further comprises at least one channel button operable to select a category of content from a channel server.

15 5. The directed web browsing system according to Claim 1 and further comprising a filter module operable to modify the second web page in response to selecting the link based on site criteria associated with the customizable director.

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6. A method for directed web browsing comprising:
providing a director;
displaying, using the director, a first web page
having a first link, the first link having an associated
second web page;
selecting the first link;
determining whether a predetermined cycle time
associated with the first web page has expired; and
displaying a third web page in response to the
expiration of the predetermined cycle time.

7. The method for directed web browsing according
to Claim 6 and further comprising filtering the second
web page in response to the selection of the first link
based on site criteria associated with the web browser.

8. The method for directed web browsing according
to Claim 7, wherein filtering the second web page
comprises:

comparing at least one second link associated with
the second web page to at least one forbidden site
associated with the site criteria; and

removing second links which match at least a portion
of any of the forbidden sites associated with the site
criteria.

9. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 6 and further comprising:

receiving a uniform resource locator from a user associated with the director; and

5 determining whether the uniform resource locator is associated with an allowed web site based on criteria associated with the director.

10 10. The method for controlled web browsing according to Claim 6, wherein determining the expiration of the cycle time comprises:

counting down the cycle time; and

generating an indication that the cycle time has elapsed.

15 11. The method for controlled web browsing according to Claim 10, wherein displaying the third web page comprises:

20 loading the third web page in response to the indication that the cycle time has elapsed; and

formatting the third web page based on hypertext markup language tags associated with the first web page.

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12. A method for directed web browsing comprising:
customizing a director operable to provide web
browsing capabilities;

5 determining a first web page to present to a user
associated with the director, the first web page having a
link associated with a second web page;

determining a cycle time associated with the first
web page, the cycle time indicating the length of time
the first web page is to be displayed to the user; and

10 preventing the user from requesting a third web page
distinct from the first and second web pages.

13. The method for directed web browsing according
to Claim 12, wherein preventing the user from requesting
15 the third web page comprises allowing the user to
selected the third web page from a further link
associated with either of the first and second web pages
and preventing the user from providing a portion of a
uniform resource locator.

20 14. The method for directed web browsing according
to Claim 12, wherein preventing the user from providing
the portion of the uniform resource locator comprises
preventing the user from providing any portion of the
25 uniform resource locator.

15. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 12, wherein customizing the director comprises:
editing a border associated with the director;
editing a display area associated with the director;
5 adding at least one navigation element to the border; and
adding at least one sponsor related element to the border.

10 16. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 15, wherein the sponsor comprises a corporation.

17. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 15 and further comprising:
15 subscribing, by the user, to a channel available from a channel server; and
adding a channel button associated with the channel to the border.

20 18. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 17 and further comprising:
receiving a first item of content from the channel server; and
generating a second item of content for
25 communication to the channel server and distribution to a further director distinct from the director.

19. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 12, wherein determining the expiration of the cycle time comprises:

counting down the cycle time;

5 determining a fourth web page to display to the user, the fourth web page being associated with the director; and

generating an indication that the cycle time has elapsed.

10 20. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 19, wherein displaying the fourth web page comprises:

15 loading the fourth web page in response to the indication that the cycle time has elapsed; and

formatting the fourth web page based on hypertext markup language tags associated with the first web page.

20 21. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 12 and further comprising filtering the second web page based on site criteria associated with the web browser.

25 22. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 12 and further comprising determining network performance statistics associated with a remote site.

23. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 22, wherein determining network performance statistics comprises:

5 receiving, at the director, a selection of a statistics enabled uniform resource locator (URL) associated with the remote site;

communicating the statistics enabled URL to a channel server;

10 receiving, at the director, a request to determine network performance statistics;

determining network performance data between the director and the remote site; and

15 communicating the network performance data to the channel server.

24. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 23, wherein the network performance data comprises a latency between the director and the remote site.

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25. A method for directed web browsing comprising:
providing a graphical user interface;
displaying a folder on the graphical user interface;
displaying a director icon in the folder, the
5 director icon having an associated director, the director
having an associated exclusive set of first web pages
associated with the director and wherein a user
associated with the director is required to retrieve at
least one of the first web pages prior to retrieving a
10 second web page distinct from the first web pages;

selecting a selected one of the first web pages to
present to a user associated with the director in
response to the selection of the associated director
icon;

15 determining a cycle time associated with the first
web page in response to the selection of the selected one
of the first web pages, the cycle time indicating the
length of time the selected one of first web pages is to
be displayed to the user; and

20 preventing the user from requesting a third web page
distinct from the first and second web pages.

26. The method for directed web browsing according
to Claim 25, wherein the first web pages comprise
25 information associated with a sponsor associated with the
director.

27. The method for directed web browsing according
to Claim 25, wherein the sponsor comprises a corporation.

28. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 25, wherein at least one of the second web pages comprises advertising information associated with a sponsor associated with the director.

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29. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 25 and further comprising installing the folder along with the graphical user interface.

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30. The method for directed web browsing according to Claim 25, wherein the director icon comprises an online banking icon.

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31. A channel server for directed web browsing comprising:

an identifier module;

5 an identifier database operable to communicate with the identifier module and storing at least one identifier;

a subscriber database operable to communicate with the identifier module and associating at least one of the identifiers with at least one channel;

10 a channel module operable to communicate with the identifier module and distribute content to the subscribers associated with the channels based on the channel;

15 a distribution module operable to communicate with the identifier module and retrieve content generated by a user associated with a director; and

an electronic mail module operable to communicate with the identifier module and communicate anonymous electronic mail between directors.

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